

SUBJECT: ALFOODACT 016-2006: Bagged Fresh Spinach Contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 Causes Outbreak

A follow-up ALFOODACT will be initiated upon completion of investigations by all Federal Health Agencies.

Date Issued: September 15, 2006

1. REFERENCE:

a. DLAR 4155.26/AR 40-660/NAVSUPINST 10110.8c/AFI 48-116/MCO 10110.38c, DOD Hazardous Food & Nonprescription Drug Recall System.

b. Allied Communications Publication 121, US SUPP-1 (f).

c. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01450.html>

2. BACKGROUND: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is issuing an alert to consumers about an outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 in multiple states that may be associated with the consumption of produce. To date, preliminary epidemiological evidence suggests that bagged fresh spinach may be a possible cause of this outbreak.

Based on the current information, FDA advises that consumers not eat bagged fresh spinach at this time. Individuals who believe they may have experienced symptoms of illness after consuming bagged spinach are urged to contact their health care provider.

"Given the severity of this illness and the seriousness of the outbreak, FDA believes that a warning to consumers is needed. We are working closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local agencies to determine the cause and scope of the problem," said Dr. Robert Brackett, Director of FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN).

E. coli O157:H7 causes diarrhea, often with bloody stools. Although most healthy adults can recover completely within a week, some people can develop a form of kidney failure called Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). HUS is most likely to occur in young children and the elderly. The condition can lead to serious kidney damage and even death. To date, 50 cases of illness have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including 8 cases of HUS and one death.

At this time, the investigation is ongoing and states that have reported illnesses to date include: Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin.

FDA will keep consumers informed of the investigation as more information becomes available.

3. PRODUCTION DATES/IDENTIFYING CODES:

All BAGGED FRESH SPINACH

ALL BRANDS, ALL TYPES, ALL DATES, ALL SIZES

4. MANUFACTURER/FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT:

All Manufacturers/Processors of bagged fresh spinach.

5. DISTRIBUTION: Unknown

6. REASON FOR RECALL: Positive for *E. coli* O157:H7.

7. INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MESSAGE RECIPIENTS:

(1) Immediately inventory stocks to identify the above items and secure in a "Medical Hold" status to provide assurance of no further issue/sale/use of the item.

(2) Ships at sea are authorized to destroy or dispose of recalled products at their discretion. Documentation for the number of pounds and cases, and any additional pertinent information must be signed by the Accountable Officer and is required for the purpose of recouping to the government the cost of the product involved. Information shall be forwarded by priority message to this center.

(3) Accountable Activities should return recalled product to the manufacturer through the appropriate distribution channels.

8. The Point of Contact for this ALFOODACT message is [CW4 Ramona Martin](#), Consumer Safety Officer, at DSCP-FTW. VOICE, DSN: 444-2905, Commercial (215) 737-2905, or by FAX, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526

Any individual or office that would like to receive recall messages electronically can forward their email address to Ramona.Martin@dla.mil.

Previous recalls and frequently asked questions are available at the following web site:

<http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/proserv/alfood/afamess.htm>

The navigation tool to the left allows you to view DSCP Alerts and Archived Vendor Recalls also.

Very Respectfully,

Ms. Ramona Martin

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